

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

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1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a list a properties associated with storage;
choosing one or more of said properties to build an expression, said expression including at least one property and wherein when said expression includes more than one property then said expression further includes at least one logical operator which relate said one or more properties;
evaluating said expression to determine a pool of storage; and
selecting a piece of storage having characteristics defined by the storage properties in the expression.
 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving is done by a database administrator (DBA).
 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein choosing is done by a database administrator (DBA).
 4. (Canceled)
 5. (Original) The method claim 2 further comprising determining if all the properties received by the database administrator are all of the properties wanted by the database administrator.
 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising in response to all the properties received by the database administrator not being all of the properties desired by the database administrator, adding a property desired by the database administrator.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein selecting properties and operators to build an expression comprises selecting at least one new property to build the expression.
 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating is done by a storage administrator (SA).
 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein selecting is done by a storage administrator (SA).
 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising validating the storage for operation.
 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising in response to the validating, indicating that when there is not enough storage for an operation providing an indication that the operation can not be carried out.
 12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein in response to the validating indicating that there is enough storage for operation, then completing the operation.
 13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein in response to the validating indicating that there is not enough storage to complete the operation, then performing the operation with the storage which is available.
 14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the response to the validating indicating that there is not enough storage to complete the operation then searching for more storage.
 15. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
assigning one or more storage properties to one or more pieces of storage; and
associating at least one storage property with at least one piece of storage.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said assigning is done by a storage administrator (SA).
17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said associating is done by a storage administrator (SA).
18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating one or more storage properties.
19. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising of identifying one or more properties to associate with a plurality of specific storage devices.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storage is not physical storage.
21. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein generating properties comprises generating user-defined storage properties.
22. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the system is identified as hands-off storage.
23. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the storage is identified as can-use storage.
24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said steps of receiving, choosing, evaluating and selecting are performed as part of an information recovery operation.

Claims 25-33 (Canceled)

AX 34. (Currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a list a properties in a data-base administrator (DBA); and
selecting one or more properties to build an expression, said expression including at least one property and wherein when said expression includes more than one property then said expression further includes at least one logical operator which relate said one or more properties.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The method claim 35 further comprising determining if all the properties received by the database administrator are all of the properties wanted by the data-base administrator.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising in response to all the properties received by the database administrator not being all of the properties desired by the database administrator, adding a property desired by the database administrator.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein selecting properties and operations to build a expression comprises selecting at least one new property to build the expression.

39. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein said steps of receiving and selecting are performed as part of an information recovery operation.

40. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
evaluating an expression to determine a pool of storage, said expression including at least one property and wherein when said expression includes more than one property then said expression further includes at least one logical operator which relate said one or more properties;
and

AX selecting a piece of storage having characteristics defined by storage properties in the expression.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39 further comprising validating the storage for operation.
42. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising in response to the validating step indicating that when there is not enough storage for an operation, providing an indication that the operation cannot be carried out.
43. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein in response to the validation indicating that there is enough storage for operation, then completing the operation.
44. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein in response to the validation indicating that there is not enough storage to complete the operation, then performing the operation with the storage which is available.
45. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein in response to validation step indicating that there is not enough storage to complete the operation, then searching for more storage.
46. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein said step of evaluating and selecting are performed as part of an information recovery operation.